

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 CU-04 /095 W

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R 080711Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5010

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1721

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SN, UR

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION

REF: SINGAPORE 1606

1. FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM DEPARTED FOR MOSCOW AS PLANNED (REFTEL) ON APRIL 7 ACCOMPANIED BY ONG TENG CHEONG, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE (COMMUNICATIONS), HWANG SOO JIN, A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, LIM CHIN TEONG, DEPUTY SECRETARY (CULTURE) AND KISHORE MAHBUBANI, DEPUTY SECRETARY (MFA). ACCORDING TO STRAITS TIMES OF APRIL 8, RAJARATNAM AT PRE-DEPARTURE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE REITERATED WELL-KNOWN GOS VIEWS CONCERNING GREAT POWER PRESENCE IN THE REGION. RAJARATNAM SAID THAT PROVIDED THE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS IS TO SEE UNCLASSIFIED

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WHO CAN DO THE MOST TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGIONAL

COUNTRIES, THEIR PRESENCE WOULD BE WELCOME. HOWEVER, THEIR PRESENCE COULD JUST AS WELL BE DANGEROUS IF THEY ENGAGED IN CONFLICTS WITHIN THE REGION WHICH COULD INVOLVE THE SMALLER COUNTRIES.

2. RAJARATNAM TERMED HIS VISIT ROUTINE AND SAID IT WOULD BE TO RENEW ACQUAINTANCES AND SURVEY THE WORLD SCENE. RAJARATNAM NOTED THAT MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE FIVE YEARS SINCE HE LAST VISITED THE SOVIET UNION. SPECIFIC SUBJECTS ON THE GOS-SOVIET AGENDA APPARENTLY INCLUDE SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS INCLUDING THE EXPANSION OF TRADE AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, RAJARATNAM SAID THAT THE SUBJECT OF CHINA WOULD BE BROUGHT UP BUT NOT AS A SPECIFIC ITEM.

3. STRAITS TIMES REPORTED THAT IN ADDITION TO VISITING MOSCOW, RAJARATNAM AND HIS ASSOCIATES WILL ALSO VISIT RIGA AND KIEV.
HOLDRIDGE

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